(iv) Provision of signage Boards;

(v) Improvement to lighting arrangements;

(vi) Provision of designer water huts; and

(vii) Provision of two escalators.

Mumbai-Kanyakumari dedicated high speed corridor

894. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to construct high speed passenger corridors;

(b) if so, the details of the regions would be covered by these corridors;

(c) the details of the stations proposed to be connected in the southern region;

(d) whether there is proposal for Mumbai - Kanyakumari dedicated high speed corridor;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by when the work on these projects are expected to begin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways had decided only to conduct pre-feasibility studies for construction of high speed passenger corridors on the following sections, *viz*,

(i) Delhi - Chandigarh - Amritsar

(ii) Pune - Mumbai - Ahmedabad

(iii) Hyderabad - Dornakal - Vijayawada - Chennai

(iv) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam

(v) Howrah - Haldia

(c) The stations which may probably be connected shall be known only after completion of pre-feasibility studies and will depend on large number of factors.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal from Chief Minister of Kerala has been received for Mumbai - Kanyakumari corridor. Ministry of Railways is undertaking a pre-feasibility study of Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam section of this corridor.

(f) No time limit can be given as, at present, only pre-feasibility studies are being proposed to be conducted.

Employment to minorities in railways

895. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have fulfilled the declared promises that minority community particularly the Muslim community shall be given adequate representation for employment in the railway jobs;

(b) if so, the percentage of minority persons employed in the railways during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of such employees, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Every effort is being made to give adequate representation of minority community for employment on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Year-wise and category-wise details of percentage of minority persons employed in Railways during the last three years are as under:

Year	Total number of persons employed					Number of Minorities employed					% of Minorities employed				
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total
2005-06	139	0	21739	21025	42903	5	0	1827	1688	3520	3.60	0.00	8.40	8.03	8.20
2006-07	77	0	24577	18612	43266	15	0	1766	1716	3497	19.48	0.00	7.19	9.22	8.08
2007-08	171	0	24003	22201	46375	14	0	1770	1734	3518	8.19	0.00	7.37	7.81	7.59